

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, April 12, 1890, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1336 Nineteenth Street. April 12, 1890. My dear Alec:

Would it be possible for me to remain here until Wednesday? Aileen could take my place and receive and entertain Dr. Mitchell until my arrival. Wouldn't my staying with my invalid Father and Mother be a valid excuse? I wouldn't ask it as Mamma and Papa are so well, but I am so disappointed, I did so want the doctor to see me, and see if I couldn't at least go out riding. This morning I find that it will be impossible for me to see the doctor for the next few days. I think I would be well by Wednesday morning, and could see him in the morning and return by the 1 o'clock. Dr. Hunter is dead but Dr. Kennicutt says his successor has his notes and can tell if there is any change since the last examination. I will return Tuesday morning if you think I ought, but indeed it is hard to be disappointed again, and it is not easy for me to come back here another time this spring. Mamma and Papa seem doing very well, Papa is still in bed as a precautionary measure, though he has had no fever for two days. Mamma says she feels quite well and she looks pretty nearly so, but she still coughs at intervals and I am glad Dr. Kennicutt won't consent to her returning home just yet. She cannot see why they can't both go home and thinks the doctor does not realize what the confinement to one small room is to her after the freedom and airiness of her own home.

I have received the "Annals" I think my letter compares 2 most unfavorably with the two other articles by deaf people, the papers of White and Seliney. I hope no one will think of comparing the three for I think the oral system would fare badly if its results as shown in my letter were pitted against the results of the sign system as shown in theirs. Their sentences are so free and easy, their periods so nicely rounded, my sentences badly

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constructed long drawn out. I am disgusted, wonder I didn't see it before. I wrote to Mr. McCurdy by this mail about some things about the house, so goodbye.

Many thanks for your letter, I enjoyed it very much. It certainly is a shame that self-supporting citizens should be called paupers and objects of charity.

Love to my darling little vice-regent and to my Elsie,

Yours ever, Mabel. Dr. Kennicutt told me Mamma and Papa were doing better than he expected, that they may be able to leave next week, he had not expected to let them go for three weeks. That Mamma is improving but she still has bronchitis and must be careful, Papa ditto — Suppose I stay altogether?